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SOURCE Observations of

STATSPEC

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III. Outer Mongolian Regional Radio Station

Ulan Bator

STATSPEC

regularly intercepts and processes Russian-language voice transmissions
addressed to Soviet domestic audiences. The voicecasts discussed here all
form part of regional radio broadcasts originating in the Soviet Far East
and Siberia.

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I. PRINCIPAL SIBERIAN REGIONAL RADIO STATIONS

KHABAROVSK

A. Control

Control of the Khabarovsk radio is exercised through the Khabarovsk krai radio information committee, whose offices in the regional capital are located at No. 80 of the street named after Zaparin. The Khabarovsk regional programs originate in the newsrooms and studios of this committee. Thus, locally written news stories and round-ups, interviews and other features, like the programs daily relayed from Moscow, undeviatingly follow, implement, and further the current CPSU propaganda line.

B. Characteristics

1. Reception

The Khabarovsk radio is on the air for at least 22 hours a day. This includes a daily period of almost 6 hours, from 0400 to 0957 GMT, during which the Khabarovsk transmitters are in direct hook-up with Moscow for the relay of regularly scheduled newscasts and features. The bulk of the nightly programs are most always monitorable, although reception of some is poor and spotty. For instance, the 1930 GMT broadcast was almost always monitorable in July and August, yet was not heard more than once or twice throughout October, November, and December.

2. Announcers

The Khabarovsk radio committee maintains a large staff of male and female announcers, artists, actors, musicians, writer-adapters, and other studio technicians. The regular women announcers include the pleasant-voiced Chernyayeva (no first names given), heard also in 1951; Baranova, Vasilyeva, Medina, Ulyanova, Chernova, Yermolenko, and Barakhovskaya. Last year's fine women announcers Mikhailova and Shlyapnikova have not been heard for some time.

The full-time male announcers were headed by Mikhail Ternykh. Others include Baranov, Subbotin, (Petrov or Vetrov), Kolesnikov, and (Stebnev or Tebnev). The "Khabarovsk radio committee artists" Mikhail Sugrobkin and Nikolai Petrovich Mostachenko continued to broadcast throughout 1952. The former specialized in reading PRAVDA editorials, texts of Soviet notes and speeches by USSR leaders, and important policy articles. Mostachenko, obviously an actor of ability with a well-trained and pleasant voice, specialized in poems, literary readings, and drama excerpts.

The Khabarovsk radio announcers, as a group, speak the standard Great Russian of the Soviet period with no regional accent, and give evidence of correct voice placement and training.

3. Program Format

The year 1952 saw few changes in the pattern of the Khabarovsk broadcasts from that of earlier years. The most important change was the addition by the Khabarovsk radio of a weekly news-feature review on Mondays at 1000 GMT.

The 0315-0400 GMT show, a review of the Khabarovsk press, generally includes an editorial from TIKOOKEANSKAYA ZVEZDA ("Pacific Star"), leading Khabarovsk daily, and articles from MOLODOY DALNEVOSTOCHNIK ("Young Far-Easterner"). Material from other regional papers is also quoted occasionally.

Khabarovsk news programs are presented as follows:

- a. At 1015 GMT, a 15-minute regional newscast dealing with events and activities in the Khabarovsk krai, particularly in the city of Khabarovsk, the Amur and Nizhne Amur oblasts, the Jewish Autonomous Oblast, and the Okhotsk Seaboard. It ends with a daily weather forecast.
- b. At 1330 GMT, a 25-minute broadcast, beginning with the text of the day's Moscow PRAVDA editorial. It continues with a round-up of news covering the USSR as a whole and includes many TASS items from foreign countries, frequently credited to foreign news agencies, the ADN, REUTERS, UNITED PRESS, ASSOCIATED PRESS, and others.

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- c. The 1930 GMT show is almost always a partial repeat of the 1330 newscast. It omits the PRAVDA editorial, but adds "news" stories from the People's Democracies, Western Europe, Asia, the United States, and the rest of the world.

Other monitored Khabarovsk programs include:

- a. At 1100 GMT five or six days a week, there is a commentary or article; on Fridays, a broadcast for the Khabarovsk krai fishermen; on Wednesdays, a broadcast for krai farm workers; on Tuesdays, a broadcast for the krai loggers. Any and all of these broadcasts are occasionally revised and even omitted to make place for higher-priority materials, such as the text of a Vishinsky speech or policy articles suitable for Soviet special-observances day. Reception of this show usually ranges from fair to good.
- b. At 1000 GMT, Sundays only, there is an article or commentary, usually devoted to nonregional material. This was found to be almost always a repeat of Moscow home service material broadcast weeks or even months earlier.
- c. At 1000 GMT, Mondays only, Khabarovsk carries the feature program "Doings in Our Krai." In the course of this broadcast other Khabarovsk krai localities are frequently tuned in and relayed. They include the ports of Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Nikolaevsk-on-Amur, Sovetskaya Gavan; Birobidzhan; Petropavlovsk-on-Kamchatka and Sakhalin Island; the rapidly developing Okhotsk seaboard; and also collective farms, logging camps, lumber-milling concerns, fisheries, canneries, packing plants; industrial plants such as the huge Ordzhonikidze plant in Khabarovsk, said to be the largest industrial concern in the Soviet Far East; the Khabarovsk shipyard, the Amur river port installations and the administrative offices. Still others are rest homes, the Krai Theater of the Drama, the local opera, operetta film theaters, and amateur theatrical companies and sports organizations; headquarters of the Far Eastern branch of the USSR Writers Union; Khabarovsk's exclusive military club known as Officers House, and so on.

When a radio substation is thus relayed, the Khabarovsk broadcaster often turns over the microphone to a local announcer or spokesman. At other times, a Khabarovsk radio newsmen on an outside assignment conducts on-the-spot interviews over the air, very much after the manner of American radio reporters. The Khabarovsk station also frequently plays back recorded interviews with key regional Party and management figures. Reception of such play-backs is invariably poor, due to unskillful delivery.

4. Broadcast Content

- a. Propaganda Themes: At the beginning of 1952 Khabarovsk broadcasts played up the bacteriological warfare theme. They mentioned the Japanese bacteriological specialists Shiro Ishii, Jiro Wakamatsu, and Masazo Kitano, who are said to have worked on germ weapons throughout the World War II period and given their findings and their experience to the American occupation forces. Allied stories, such as references to the Khabarovsk trials of the Japanese germ-warfare experts, and interviews with germ-poisoned Korean and Chinese farmers, disseminated by the radio, occurred frequently.

The campaign reached its culmination with the visit to China of leftist European scientists and public figures who, after "investigating" allegedly incriminating material, pronounced the United States guilty as charged. With the publication of the report by this International Commission of Scientists, the campaign faded out.

Another major propaganda theme was the American intervention in Siberia and the Russian Far East during the Russian civil war, 1918-22. First given prominent mention as long as two years ago, the subject has been kept alive in Soviet Far Eastern broadcasts.

- b. Industrial and other data: The Khabarovsk radio programs frequently give information on the krai population; rail, river, and maritime transport; the Far East's main industries, fishing and lumbering; heavy, subsidiary, and cooperative industrial concerns; merchant marine shipyards and

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shipbuilding; city planning and building; education; and social and cultural life. The 1000 GMT news-feature show on Mondays repeatedly yields interesting facts. For example, Issue No. 45, broadcast on 17 November 1952 contained facts and figures concerning Amur shipping, in an interview with the head of the Khabarovsk River Port, Fedchenko. Later, the daily 1015 GMT newscast of 29 November broadcast the text of an interview with Comrade Vasily Petrovich Avdeyenko, identified as the chief of the Khabarovsk krai "Poligraf-Izdat," evidently the regional administration of printing shops and publishing houses, who surveyed printing-trade activities, both current and proposed.

VLADIVOSTOK

A. Control

Control of Vladivostok radio transmissions is vested in the Primorskiy krai radio committee, whose newsroom and studio originate all broadcasts not relayed from Moscow.

B. Characteristics

1. Reception:

Reception of Vladivostok broadcasts is consistently poor.

2. Program Format

The three intercepted voicecasts, all originating in the Primorskiy krai capital city and seaport of Vladivostok, are:

- a. Beginning at 1045 GMT a 20-minute regional newscast, during which Vladivostok tunes in a krai substation and allows the local announcer to read news items from his area. Reception of such items is invariably poorer than the rest of the newscast. Senders so tuned-in include those of the town of Voroshilov, Suchan and Artem colliery settlements, and the ports of Nakhodka and Sovetskaya Gavan.
- b. Between 1130 and 1200 GMT Vladivostok broadcasts articles, commentaries, or literary readings. Very occasionally this period is devoted to broadcasts to the Vladivostok-based whaling flotilla "Aleut," operating in North Pacific waters seven months of the year.
- c. At 1330 GMT, Vladivostok offers a nonregional newscast compiled from TASS wire copy. This is followed at around 1358 GMT by a program preview which is never completed, as this broadcast goes off the air at exactly 1400 GMT, sometimes in mid-sentence. A possible explanation might be that at 1400 GMT the Vladivostok station switches from shortwave to mediumwave.

3. Announcers

Vladivostok announcers speak correct modern Russian with no regional accent and of no particular distinction. In the reading of newscasts male and female voices are alternated, in accordance with standard Soviet broadcasting procedure. It was possible to identify the names of announcers Gromov, Sobol, and Ustinov, and the women Kondratenko and Antipina.

4. Broadcast Content

Newscasts reflect the activities of the Maritime krai's working population--miners, loggers, seamen, port workers, and collective and state farmers--and contain the usual guidance and chiding admonitions by Communist Party leaders. Radio Vladivostok carries some data--much of it deliberately vague--about ship movements and shoreside activities of its port, as well as the ports of Nakhodka and Sovetskaya Gavan. A recent item described extensive building activities in the latter port city, where new housing, a large hospital, and schools were being built, indicating a growth of the general population. There seems to be a complete blackout of news concerning military or Soviet Navy activities at that port. The Far Eastern Shipping Administration (Dalnevostochnoye Parokhodstvo) and its vessels receive fairly frequent mention in these broadcasts, although they are given wider coverage in the daily Vladivostok PACIFIC SEAMAN code cast.

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The Soviet Far Eastern and Vladivostok-based whaling flotilla "Aleut," one of only two such flotillas in the USSR, is mentioned frequently by Vladivostok radio newsmen. At irregular intervals during the whaling season the Vladivostok radio committee arranges one-way "Broadcasts for the Whalers." Family members of officers and men who have made outstanding records, mostly wives, daughters, and small sons, are given the opportunity of saying a few words over the microphone to their loved ones. These messages are always cheerful in tone and tell of shoreside achievements. The wives whose messages are intercepted appear not to be just housewives, but Communist Party members engaged in socially significant work.

PETROPAVLOVSK-ON-KAMCHATKA

A. Control

Control over the Petropavlovsk broadcasting station, RV-102, is vested in the Kamchatka Oblast Radio Information Committee.

B. Characteristics

1. Format

Petropavlovsk broadcasts in 1952, as compared with preceding years, showed few basic changes. The main change consisted of the cancellation during the regional broadcast hour at 0800 to 0900 GMT of locally-produced concert programs. Their place has been taken by talks, readings, and other features. These additional shows do not differ greatly from similar 1951 programs, but in 1952 there are more of them.

For its cultural and entertainment programs the Petropavlovsk sender evidently depends on the Moscow and Khabarovsk shows of this type, relayed for Kamchatka listeners at various other periods during the day.

Pattern: Radio Petropavlovsk broadcasts a regional schedule of programs every day except Sunday from 0800 to 0857 GMT. Within this period no regular time is assigned to any one section. The regional 15-minute news round-up and the 6- to 12-minute review of the KAMCHATSKAYA PRAVDA are always given four times a week, Tuesday through Friday. The review generally closes the program, to be followed only by a 3-minute Program Preview--which does not always correctly list the programs for the next day.

Tuesday broadcasts during 1952 begin with a program for Young Pioneers, the Friday ones lead off with Youth programs. Monday shows--which follow a day when no papers are published in the USSR provinces--carry no newscasts nor the KAMCHATSKAYA PRAVDA reviews. In season they have started with a half-hour program for local fishermen; in late autumn, following the end of the fishing season, they lead off with a half-hour program for Kamchatka's collective farmers.

The weather report is always the last item of the daily newscast.

2. Announcers

Radio Petropavlovsk conforms to the general Soviet radio procedure of alternating male and female voices in the broadcasting of news and other material. Brovenko (no first name provided) remains the chief woman announcer. Her diction is adequate but not particularly distinguished. Her male colleague, who made his first appearance some time in July, is Chekalin. His Russian diction is excellent and cultured.

Actors of the Kamchatka radio information committee read literary excerpts, features, short stories, poems, and dramatic sketches. They are assigned also to read political material of more than average importance, such as the texts of Soviet notes and statements by USSR spokesmen.

3. Reception

During the last few months of 1951, reception was adversely influenced by interference from a powerful Voice of America sender, whose time on the air overlapped the Kamchatka broadcast hour. This situation continued well into 1952, but seems to have been somewhat corrected during the past few months. Poor reception is also occasioned by the program relays of local Kamchatka

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substations frequently arranged by the Petropavlovsk radio newsroom. The newsroom and radio committee studio also tune in fishery combines, trawlers at sea, and play poor-quality records on which addresses by local dignitaries and Stakhanovites are transcribed. Apparent technical shortages at the relay points, combined with the guest speakers' poor delivery, render portions of such broadcasts virtually unintelligible.

Efforts to intercept the Petropavlovsk Sunday broadcast which, according to the program previews, begins at 0300 GMT and carries a review of the Saturday issue of the KAMCHATSKAYA PRAVDA have been unsuccessful. Adverse propagation conditions prevalent at that time of the day prevent reception on the 6070 kilocycle wavelength used by the Petropavlovsk sender.

4. Broadcast Content

The Kamchatka Oblast Radio Information Committee maintains a regional newsroom and studio in Petropavlovsk and uses the services of dozens of correspondents. The various regional dailies and weeklies, and the wall-posted press issued at some of the larger industrial combines serve as the source of much broadcast material. Seasonal newspapers such as FOR ABUNDANT CATCHES (ZA VYSOKIYE ULOVY), organ of the Kamchatka trawler fleet, are also regularly quoted.

II. OTHER SIBERIAN REGIONAL RADIO STATIONS

Siberian regional broadcasting stations differ greatly from those in other sections of the USSR. Like the area, they are backward in many aspects of development and techniques. But most of all, they differ in broadcast content. There is either a great lack of imagination or initiative on the part of station personnel, or a tighter censorship on broadcast content, for Siberian stations have yet to approach other USSR stations in freedom of expression, limited as that may be. There are rarely the lengthy criticisms or detailings of shortcomings which are frequently broadcast from other areas.

The word "regional" is adequately descriptive of the material monitored from Siberian stations. A study of station programs quickly discloses that each station beams its material to a limited area and that such material is of a local nature, concerned mainly with keeping a group restricted in locale abreast of events strictly of a local nature and of local interest.

BIROBIDZHAN

1. Reception

Reception of this station has been fair to good, although audio quality is not clear due to a weak signal.

2. Announcers

The station has both male and female announcers (unidentified), but frequently they fail to follow the normal pattern of having a man and woman alternate in announcing. The male announcer is better than the female in pronunciation and general announcing technique, yet due to the low frequency of his voice, recordings are not as good as those made of the female voice. The female announcer has a tendency to read rapidly and run items together; her reading is "automatic" and lacks expression. The diction is inferior to first-class Soviet regionals.

3. Programming

The station seldom observes its scheduled time. Often, to fill the interlude between the regional newscast which starts about 0830 GMT, and the Moscow relay which comes on at 0900 GMT, short talks are presented on public health, fire prevention, and similar subjects, or announcements--mostly theatrical--are used as "fillers." Press reviews are irregular, and are often substituted by a talk, article, or other feature. Editorials are generally poorly written and do not compare with other regional editorials. Much news is devoted to the Khingan tin combine, leading enterprise of the oblast, and the Birobidzhan Garment Sewing Factory.

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4. Content

In general, the programs are colorless without emphasis on any branch of economy or industry. Fawning praise of Stalin, the party, and the government lead off almost every item, giving the listener the impression that this Jewish oblast is apprehensive of its standing. The oblast is never referred to as the Jewish Autonomous Oblast, but merely as the "oblast." Monitors have never heard the word "Jewish" mentioned in any connection, except when announcing a program to be broadcast in Yiddish. Names of prominent officials, plant managers, and even Stakhanovite workers are predominantly Russian. Jewish music is seldom presented.

BLAGOVESHCHENSK

1. Reception

The broadcasts are covered most of the time with "nnp" navy code and "rqa3" Russian code. Transmission quality is poor.

2. Announcers

The quality of announcing is good. The station employs four announcers: Shilin, Gribanova, Kelyushev, and occasionally Bogorodskaya.

3. Programming

This station follows the general Soviet regional pattern, with slight emphasis on agriculture. Programming is so drab and so much in the regional pattern that there is no deviating characteristic worthy of mention.

CHITA

1. Control

No mention of the controlling organ has even been heard during the evening broadcast hours.

2. Reception

During the summer and early fall, reception is consistently marred by severe atmospherics. However, since mid-October no trouble has been experienced in monitoring the station.

3. Announcers

As in other regional stations, male and female announcers alternate in reading portions of the scripts. To date one male announcer, Bakhanov, and two female announcers, Molotova and (Satseva?), have been conducting the broadcasts. The two regular announcers, Bakhanova and Molotova, seem to be fairly experienced, although Molotova has a tendency to deliver items at a speedy rate.

4. Programming

From 1030 GMT, following the relay from Moscow of a program in Mongolian, until 1145 GMT, broadcasts consist of talks, music, and programs for agricultural workers. At 1145 GMT the station presents a regional newscast, which continues for fifteen minutes. However, the newscast has been started as much as 35 minutes behind schedule. During the summer months, program emphasis was on agriculture almost to the exclusion of other news items of local nature. Gradually the emphasis shifted to other fields and items on agriculture are rarely heard now. Much time is devoted to enterprises of local industries. Occasional mention is made of placer mines turning out "basic elements" or "basic production." No mention is ever made of what these "basic elements" may be, nor are any concrete figures given. Names of personnel employed at these enterprises are seldom if ever mentioned. Weather reports, unlike most other regional stations, mention only the immediate area (Chita), although rayons are sometimes included in weather reports broadcast by the station at the conclusion of each regional newscast.

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MAGADAN

1. Reception

Reception is generally poor, with unprocessable and even unintelligible portions, due to strong interference from radioteletype, high-speed code and atmospheric, often causing signal fading.

2. Announcers

Three announcers, Orekhov, Kharlamova, and (Dobrov?) are comparable to the announcers of Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, and other leading stations. Enunciation is excellent, and delivery is of high caliber. Male and female announcers are equally expressive.

3. Programming

The news program usually lasts twenty minutes and is remarkable for a Siberian regional station in that it adheres to schedule. Material usually consists of news about work at the various Kolyma gold extracting enterprises, although on occasions mention is made of political meetings held at various enterprises. These meetings are concerned with ways and means to boost production and the proper utilization of the "most advanced" equipment. Prior to the 19th Party Congress, listeners were constantly reminded of this impending event, but not too much attention is paid to the new five-year plan. Contact with Moscow is less than for any other area--only once, on 14 October 1952, has the station relayed Moscow.

The extensive news about gold mining is never explicit. The word "gold" is never used. It is usually referred to as "precious metal" or "valuable product," while the work is described as "sand-washing."

There is obviously rigid censorship of broadcast material, for Magadan news programs are significant by virtue of the data they omit. Enterprises are rarely identified, being referred to as "the enterprise where Comrade Ivanov is chief," "enterprises under the Administration of the South," etc. Production figures are never given beyond occasional vague boasts such as "five hundred cubic meters of sands were extracted..."

Improvements in backward areas are emphasized, with the achievements attributed to the party and the government. Rail transport is seldom, if ever, mentioned; most transportation news deals with auto transport.

NIKOLAYEVSK-ON-THE-AMUR

1. Reception

Reception is consistently poor. The signal became slightly stronger in October, but constant code and heterodyne interference, as well as fade, frequency shifts of three or four kilocycles, and occasional transmitter trouble make comprehensive processing of monitored material difficult.

2. Announcers

When first intercepted, the hour-long transmission was conducted by two announcers, Obrazhenin and the woman announcer, Makarova. Both announcers were poorly trained for their jobs, evidenced by the fact that at times they would stumble over words, lose their places on their scripts, make long pauses between items, or start reading their scripts before switching on their microphones, with the result that some words would not be heard by the radio audience. These shortcomings must have been noticed by their superiors, because on 28 August 1952 Obrazhenin was replaced with Malachen and Makarova was not heard after 17 September 1952. Two new women announcers, Potapava and Khulerova, were added to the staff shortly afterwards. Although the two new announcers are a great improvement over Obrazhenin and Makarova, irritating traits in the delivery of copy are still present. Malachen's delivery is devoid of any expression, and the monotone in which he reads his script, especially during the delivery of longer-than-usual items, must be very irritating to the radio audience. Potapava, despite the nervousness she still has before the microphone, is far superior to Makarova or Khulerova. Some blame for the poor work being done by the station should be attributed to the script writers and technicians. The material is often dull and repetitious.

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3. Programming

The station signs on at 0800 GMT, following relay of Moscow, and continues broadcasting until 0900 GMT when it signs off and begins relaying Khabarovsk on the city network. Except on Mondays, the broadcast day begins with a short review of the oblast newspaper, the KRASNYY MAYAK. Occasionally the review is omitted and the station broadcasts an article or talk of local interest. This is followed at 0815 GMT by a talk or article of obvious central release, replaced occasionally by a program for pioneers or school children. The oblast regional news may come on at any time from 0830 to 0850 GMT, with emphasis on fishing activities in the oblast. In summer much material is devoted to agriculture. On rare occasions mention is made of shipping, industry, and political activities. Music is heard on very rare occasions, usually only as a filler between programs during the hour the station is on the air.

NOVOSIBIRSK

1. Reception

This station was reasonably good until the beginning of August 1952 when the transmission became covered with strong static, and is now difficult to process due to interference believed to be from Komsomolsk. The quality of transmission and modulation is fair, and the station has been gradually improving in quality.

2. Announcers

The station employs at least six announcers, Zubrovin, Litvinov, Volskaya, Lebedev, Yegorova, and Tokareva, who announce in pairs. Male and female announcers alternate on each broadcast item. The quality of announcing is good.

3. Programming

On four or five occasions the station has presented a "consolidated broadcast from the Omsk and Novosibirsk radio committees, dedicated to socialist competition between the two oblasts." These broadcasts have consisted of reports on production achievements. Barnaul, Kemerovo, and Tomsk also broadcast via the Novosibirsk transmitter. The program content of Novosibirsk is concerned primarily with agriculture, with increasing mention of industrial plants.

ULAN UDE

1. Reception

This station was only partly monitorable in August, but improved considerably toward the end of September. Occasional atmospherics add to monitoring difficulties.

2. Announcers

The announcing is rather good and expressive, becoming dramatic when referring to Stalin and the party. Both male and female announcers (unidentified) are equally good, although the female announcer mispronounces Russian names occasionally.

3. Programming

As a change from 1950, when the station broadcast the same items alternately in the Russian and Buryat-Mongol languages, only the Russian language is now used. Programs often deal with improvements in the Republic due to the Soviet regime, praise the Soviet Union and Stalin for their help, and play up the Soviet national policy, particularly stressing Soviet concern for minorities. Emphasis is on railway transport and railway equipment repair. Reference is often made to the Ulan Ude Locomotive and Railway Car Plant, which is usually called "the Lenin Order winner, Ulan Ude Locomotive and Railway Car Plant." In other respects the station follows the pattern of other Soviet regionals.

YAKUTSK

1. Reception

Until the first week of October, reception was very poor. There was marked improvement after that, although in November reception was marred by heterodyne interference and atmospherics. Most of the time the signal has been good.

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2. Announcers

The staff consists of two male and two female announcers. The men, Osipov and Lektor, are heard infrequently. Most of the load is carried by the two female announcers, Nekrasova and Subotina. Their delivery is comparable to the better Soviet regional stations.

3. Programming

The station, which is controlled by the Yakut Committee of Radio Information, broadcasts its regional newscast irregularly anywhere between 1205 and 1220 GMT. The broadcast is of fifteen minutes duration. Despite the fact that farming is of secondary importance in the Republic, during the summer months most of the newscasts were concerned with agriculture. Beginning with October, emphasis shifted to achievements of local industries and placer mining. As in other regional newscasts, no production figures are given in items dealing with placer mining, although the word "gold" was heard several times when the Yakut Gold Trust was mentioned. Almost all broadcasts are in Russian, with an occasional program in the Yakut dialect, although on one day only, 15 October 1952, the program was broadcast in half Russian and half Yakut.

YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK

1. Reception

Reception is consistently good. Slight shifts in frequency are observed from time to time, but not enough to cause difficulty in monitoring. In comparison with most regional stations, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is undoubtedly one of the most advanced, both in its technical quality and the ability of its personnel to present the dull and repetitious material.

2. Announcers

The staff of announcers consists of two men and four women. Of the men, Ivanov is heard daily except on rare occasions. The other male, Lokshin, is heard infrequently. Among the women, Tikhomirova is on the air at least five times a week, and is replaced occasionally by Tulupova. The other two women announcers, Yunokh and Zunova, are heard perhaps once every three to four weeks.

The two steady announcers, Ivanov and Tikhomirova, compare favorably with Khabarovsk and Vladivostok announcers, although recently it has been observed that Ivanov mispronounces words and makes long pauses between sentences. Tikhomirova has been consistently good. The rate of delivery is measured, emphasis is placed on the right words, and pauses between items are timed so as to enable the listener to catch names of enterprises, organizations, or individuals mentioned in the beginning of an item.

Tulupova, the most frequent substitute for one or the other regular announcers, has a somewhat unpleasant voice of low volume, in addition to other peculiarities. On many occasions it was noticed that Tulupova would repeat the item just ended by the other announcer, usually a male, and wait for her partner to read the item she was supposed to read. Clicks would be heard on the air when one or both announcers would switch on their microphones, but lapses of almost a minute would sometimes result. Slight confusion would ensue but the more experienced male announcer, usually Ivanov, would take up the item and skillfully speed up his delivery so as to make up the lost time.

3. Programming

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk schedules are strictly adhered to, something that larger and more centralized stations, such as Khabarovsk, seldom do. The station signs on at 1000 GMT with a march following relay of Moscow, and continues broadcasting until 1130 GMT when it begins to relay Khabarovsk. The regional newscast which opens the broadcast period is customarily followed by a concert, a talk of local interest or of central release, and a concluding broadcast for miners, oil workers, fishermen, or agricultural workers.

The 1000 GMT newscast lasts only fifteen minutes, except on Saturdays when the emphasis is usually on cultural events in the oblast. At times the station relays other cities in the oblast, such as Okha, Ekhab, Aleksandrovsk, Kholmok, Poronaysk, and Uglegorsk. The relays are sandwiched in with items broadcast during the regional newscast and are usually of very poor quality.

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The content of the regional newscast is varied and somewhat seasonal. During the summer months the emphasis was on fishing, farming, and shipping. As the weather became colder, the emphasis shifted to coal mining, oil extraction, and news of work being done in local industry enterprises. Some time is devoted to the paper industry. Not much time is given to party affairs.

Significant, perhaps, is the fact that not much mention is made of activities in the northern half of the island, except for occasional items dealing with oil workers on the northern tip of the island. No specific oil production figures are ever given. The emphasis is on individual exploits.

III. OUTER MONGOLIAN REGIONAL RADIO STATION

ULAN BATOR

1. Reception

Reception is spotty, ranging from fair to very poor due to occasional code and poor modulation.

2. Announcers

The sole woman announcer, unlike in 1950-51, does not announce her name. The technique of announcing is fair, although not comparable to that of good Soviet announcers. However, in comparison with 1950-51, the quality has been improved considerably, although still monotonous and expressionless. The announcer occasionally stumbles and repeats herself. At times she even stops in the middle of a sentence for no obvious reason. Intervals between items are often either too short or too long. Enunciation is rather poor. Diction is inferior to Soviet programs. The studio, apparently, has been improved--automobile horns, background conversation, and extraneous music are no longer heard.

3. Programming

The program consists mostly of a review of the newspaper, UNEN, but is sometimes replaced by an article from the magazines COMMUNIST or NEW TIMES or a selection from the Agitator's Notebook. The percentage of UNEN reviews to articles from magazines has been increased over 1950-51. The reviews at present, unlike 1950-51, do not include PRAVDA editorials.

Program emphasis has been shifting gradually from stockbreeding to local and light industries. The station often presents anonymous commentaries--obviously PRAVDA editorials or other Soviet commentaries--with such comments as "the Mongolian people are rejoicing at the achievements of the Soviet people," or "the Mongolian people will struggle for world peace," making them appear to be Mongolian commentaries.

4. Content

The pattern of broadcasts and terminology used have been considerably "Sovietized" in comparison with 1950-51. The term "revolutionary competition" has been replaced by "socialist competition"; the term "primary party organization" is used more frequently in broadcasts, although such words as "cell" are still in use.

Each holiday, campaign, or other occasion in the Soviet Union is celebrated in Mongolia almost as extensively as in the Soviet Union. The 19th Party Congress, the revolution anniversary, the Aid-To-Korea campaign and similar events have been played up extensively. The degree of criticism and denunciation of shortcomings and inefficiency has been greatly stepped up.

The name of Premier Tsedenbal is not mentioned nearly as often as that of the late Choi Balsan. Sukhe Bator's name has not been mentioned for at least six months. Credit for practically all accomplishments is given to Stalin and the Soviet Union. Numerous eulogies are now being attached to Stalin's name--far more than in the past. Considerable respect is also being paid to the Chinese People's Republic. In general, Soviet influence seems to have been increased greatly since Choi Balsan's death.

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